

MASSACHUSETTS BAYS PROGRAM CAPE COD REGION

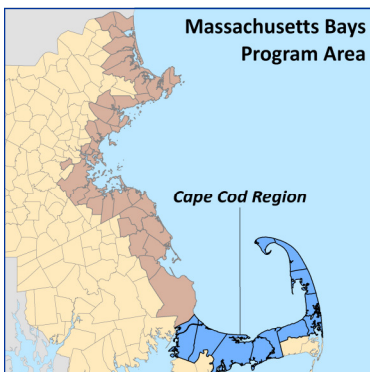
Photos: J. Muramoto, APCC

COMMUNITIES WITHIN OUR CAPE COD REGION

Barnstable
Bourne
Brewster
Dennis
Eastham
Orleans
Provincetown
Sandwich
Truro
Wellfleet
Yarmouth

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITIES SERVED

Chatham
Falmouth
Harwich
Mashpee



Estuaries: Where Rivers Meet the Sea

A unique environment with many values, an estuary is a place where fresh water from rivers flows into the salt water of the sea. Estuaries offer protection from storm surge and flooding events, play a large role in improving water quality by removing pollutants and excess nutrients, and harbor countless species, many of which are commercially valuable. They also support a host of recreational uses such as boating, swimming, fishing, shellfishing, birding, and beach-going.

Despite these considerable values, estuaries are threatened in many ways, most of which are connected to human actions. Pressure from hundreds of years of an expanding population and associated development is taking a toll on the health of estuaries and their ability to maintain their ecological integrity.

The Massachusetts Bays Program and Cape Cod

In 1987, an act of Congress established the National Estuary Program (NEP) under the Clean Water Act to address problems facing these valuable coastal resources. The Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) became a part of the NEP in 1990, highlighting the region as an “estuary of national significance.” Stretching from the New Hampshire border to the tip of Cape Cod, the 50 coastal communities in the region are home to over 1.7 million people. The MBP’s mission is to protect and enhance the coastal health and heritage of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.

The MBP’s priorities are to:

1. Protect and enhance coastal habitat
2. Reduce and prevent stormwater pollution
3. Protect and enhance shellfish resources
4. Manage local land use and growth
5. Manage municipal wastewater
6. Manage marine invasive species
7. Monitor marine waters
8. Adapt for projected impacts of climate change

Because of its large size and geographic diversity, the MBP area is divided into sub-regions that are served by regional coordinators working to address coastal planning needs at the local level. The Cape Cod regional program is hosted by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, with guidance from the Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee.



Photo: S. Weigle

The Cape Cod Bay shoreline provides substantial tidal flats critical for shellfish, horseshoe crabs, and other species.

MBP Cape Cod Coordinator

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APCC
Association to
Preserve Cape Cod

Highlights - Cape Cod Region

As regional MBP coordinator, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod works with a wide range of partners and interests in the region. Accomplishments include:

- ◆ **Habitat Restoration** - Ongoing assistance is being given to the Town of Brewster to restore Stony Brook, a tidally-restricted salt marsh and herring run, by restoring flow to 386 acres of spawning habitat, aiding fish passage and enhancing flood mitigation potential.
- ◆ **Fish Ladder Replacement** - Assistance was given to the town of Sandwich to obtain funding to replace a derelict fish ladder to Upper Shawme Pond, thereby opening 21 acres of prime spawning habitat.
- ◆ **Fish Run Monitoring** - Volunteer herring run monitoring programs have been initiated in Brewster, Wellfleet, Orleans, Chatham, and Harwich to build citizen support for restoration of fish runs.
- ◆ **Regional Coordination** - The Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee was encouraged to reconvene with a new mission and capacity to serve as a regional advisory committee on coastal issues.
- ◆ **Wetland Monitoring** - Ongoing pre- and post-restoration monitoring of several salt marsh sites are coordinated in order to measure the efficacy of restoration activities.
- ◆ **Coalition Building** - In support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, an environmental coalition was built to restore two dozen tidally restricted salt marshes, repair two dozen impaired fish runs, and remediate two dozen stormwater outfalls throughout Cape Cod.
- ◆ **No Discharge Area** - In an effort to enhance water quality in Cape Cod Bay, a grass-roots effort to designate Cape Cod Bay as a No Discharge Area for boat sewage was supported, and assistance was given to the towns of Provincetown and Dennis obtain funding for boat sewage pumpout equipment.
- ◆ **Financing Stormwater Management** - Acknowledging that additional resources are required for effective stormwater management, a needs assessment and two subsequent outreach workshops on stormwater utilities were conducted. As a result, the town of Yarmouth conducted the Cape's first "Does It Make Sense" study to determine if a stormwater utility might be feasible.
- ◆ **Wastewater Management** - "Train-the-trainer" workshops were provided on the effects of wastewater on coastal water quality and the need for regional sewerage.
- ◆ **Supporting Smart Growth** - Adoption of zoning bylaws related to growth management was promoted in the towns of Wellfleet and Brewster, and town center revitalization was encouraged in Dennis and Orleans by providing facilitated visualization workshops.



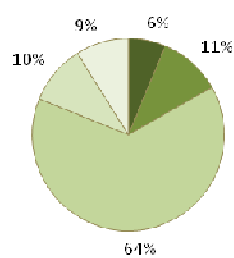
Recreational opportunities abound in and around Cape Cod watersheds.

Photo: J. Muramoto, APCC

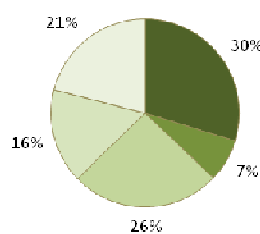
KEY COLLABORATORS

- AmeriCorps
- Association to Preserve Cape Cod Business Roundtable
- Barnstable County
- Barnstable County Coastal Resources Committee
- Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Cod Commission
- Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
- Coalition for the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project
- Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts
- Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
- Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
- Herring River Restoration Committee
- Massachusetts Audubon Society, Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary
- Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Massachusetts Highway Department
- Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center
- Senior Corps
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. National Park Service, Cape Cod National Seashore
- Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Woods Hole Research Center

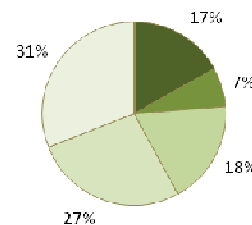
Massachusetts Bays Program Regional Characteristics



Human Population



Shoreline Length



Land Area

- UPPER NORTH SHORE
- SALEM SOUND
- METRO BOSTON
- SOUTH SHORE
- CAPE COD